



Work for Others/Non-Federal Entities (WFO/NFE)

What is a WFO/NFE?

A Work for Others/Non-federal Entities (WFO/NFE) agreement is a bilateral contract that enables a non-federal partner to request [that] the Laboratory perform a defined scope of work or tasks that draw upon the unique capabilities of the Laboratory. While the Department of Energy financially supports the majority of research conducted at the Laboratory, funding from other sources — sponsored research — is growing in importance. At the Laboratory, sponsored research is conducted consistent with the Work for Others guidelines established by DOE for national laboratories.

The Lab's WFO/NFE program is designed to enable Los Alamos scientists to deliver their knowledge, expertise and access to highly specialized instrumentation and facilities to the important research agenda of industry, state and municipal governments, universities, non-profit associations and other organizations for broad-reaching benefit to society.

What are the WFO program objectives?

- Accomplish research or technology goals that may otherwise be unattainable and to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort.
- Allow non-federal sponsors access to highly specialized and unique facilities, services or technical expertise.
- Increase research and development interactions between DOE/NNSA facilities and industry to transfer Laboratory technologies to industry for further development or commercialization.
- Assist with maintaining core competencies and enhancing the science and technology base at the Laboratory through the diversity of non-federal, applied work.

Why should Laboratory researchers engage in WFO/NFE activity?

- Laboratory principal investigators engage in WFO/NFE work to provide supplemental funding for activities consistent with or complementary to the Laboratory's mission.
- Non-federal work can provide commercial validation of systems, processes and procedures and can be the precursor to a cooperative research and development agreement.
- Collaborative agreements can be negotiated concurrently with the WFO, providing staff with other commercial research validation opportunities and the potential to obtain additional research dollars.
- The WFO can serve as a magnet for high-tech companies to collaborate with Laboratory scientists, providing additional opportunities for technical staff to interact with industry.
- Laboratory scientists enjoy the diversity of the work that the non-federal entities can provide to their science discipline.
- Work with non-federal partners exposes Laboratory staff to different applications within industry for the work they perform.

What should Lab employees know about WFO/NFEs if approached by a non-federal entity?

- WFO/NFE is full-cost-recovery work, this includes Laboratory overhead plus the DOE federal administrative charge of 3 percent (automatically waived for small-business and non-profit entities).
- A 90-day advance of funds is required during the period of performance of the agreement.
- Intellectual Property (IP) rights may be available to the sponsor under DOE's class waiver (for more information, contact TT Division).
- The Laboratory retains IP rights to any Lab invention (including technical data) conceived during the course of work conducted for federally funded non-federal sponsors.
- All WFO projects must have proposal screening, adequate work-authorization processes, and required documentation of the work authorization, hazards and controls.

What are the keys to a successful WFO/NFE agreement?

- Understanding obligations under the WFO/NFE — it is a legally binding contract.
- Performing only those tasks included in the Statement of Work.
- Allocating only funds from the specified program code for the WFO/NFE work.
- Communicating with one's industrial partner on a regular basis.

How can employees engage in WFO/NFE activities?

For more information about the WFO/NFE process, see the Technology Transfer (TT) Division Web site at <http://www.lanl.gov/partnerships> or contact TT Division at 665-9090.

Getting to the grade — Appendix F finals

by Janine Fales, Prime Contract Office (PCO)

How do you summarize the performance of an institution as diverse as the Laboratory? Very deliberately. Associate directors recently completed our draft performance self-assessment against Appendix F Performance Objectives and Measures for the 2005 fiscal year. On Sept. 12, we submitted the 220+-page assessment to both the University of California and to our customers at the National Nuclear Security Administration, completing a key deliverable in the year-end process.

The year-end process itself actually began in July, when we provided a summary of our mission performance obtained through Division and Program Review Committee evaluations to the UC-chartered Science and Technology Panel. We answered questions from them in August and received our preliminary "grades," mostly "Outstanding," for Objectives 1-6 based on the S&T Panel's evaluation of the quality of our science, technology and engineering. At their meeting this week at Los Alamos, the UC-chartered President's Council will decide what grades to assign for all objectives, based on the evaluations from the S&T Panel, Laboratory Security Panel, Project Management Panel, National Security Panel and the ES&H Panel. UC will consider both our self-assessment and the grades from these external committees in their final assessment of our performance to NNSA.

In truth, we have been reporting our self-assessment on a monthly basis in support of our corporate goal to "achieve 90 percent Outstanding on Appendix F." We currently stand at 78 percent overall, up dramatically from the NNSA-appraisal of 26 percent Outstanding last year. Throughout the self-assessment process, we evaluate our accomplishments (which are numerous and impressive, thanks to your individual contributions) and our challenges to continued success. UC and NNSA expect us to deliver a balanced and credible self-assessment. In fact, our ability to understand and address the broader performance goals and not just our performance against Appendix F metrics is critical in our eventual appraisal from NNSA.

After Sept. 30, we will update our performance self-assessment and submit the final document to UC and NNSA by Oct. 14. Laboratory Director Bob Kuckuck has the ultimate responsibility to assign our self-assessed grades in that final document. When do we receive our final grades? We will not know what they are until after the Nov. 30 meeting among UC, the Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore NNSA Site offices, the laboratory directors and NNSA headquarters. NNSA Administrator Linton Brooks has the final word.

Temperatures ...

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particles emitted by burning fossil fuels and biomass) and carbon dioxide emissions, on the global climate, provided funding for the research.

Manvendra Dubey, Los Alamos scientist and the principal investigator of the LDRD project, added "A key finding of this paper is that only by including both aerosol and carbon dioxide increases by humans in climate model simulations can we explain the

larger warming observed in Greenland relative to the global average warming. This is in part because aerosols tend to cool global temperatures and mask part of the warming caused by carbon dioxide.

"Furthermore, the largest aerosol pollution occurs in low latitude areas of South East Asia, South America and Africa. The distribution of observed warming is highly heterogeneous globally, largely due to the variability in the distribution of aerosols," said Dubey, of Hydrology, Geochemistry and Geology (EES-6). "This creates an interesting

dilemma; since we anticipate that the developing countries will reduce aerosol emissions by switching to cleaner energy (as was done by the developed world to clean its air) the warming effect of carbon dioxide will become more severe in the future. This underscores the need for the developed world that dominates carbon dioxide emissions today [to] work in synergy with the developing world that dominates aerosol emissions today, to help mitigate the risks of future climate change from energy-related effluents," said Dubey.